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# Ho Assassination Blocked By CIA

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — was still alive at the time he The CIA opposed a suggested was working on it. The North American plot to assassinate Vietnamese leader died on North Vietnamese leader Ho Sept. 3, 1969.

Chi Minh and the attempt was never made, the author of a history of the intelligence agency said Monday.

R. Harris Smith, whose book deals with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor of the CIA, told a news conference that he heard about the assassination plot from an ex-CIA officer but had no documentation.

"The plot was conceived by a retired high-level State Department official but was opposed by the CIA director and was never put into effect," Smith said.

The suggestion was considered at the highest levels of government and was turned down by the White House at the CIA director's recommendation, the writer said.

"CIA got into the act because they were the ones who would have had to carry out the plot," he said. "They opposed it as politically foolish, stupid and insane."

Smith said the man who gave him the information did not say when the plot was conceived, but that it must have been between 1966 and 1969, because these were the years that the informant was active in the CIA. He was influential in both the Johnson and Nixon administration, the author said.

Smith, 25, a former CIA analyst, told the news conference he did not use the incident in his book because Ho

Smith met newsmen on the publication date of "O.S.S.: The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency" published by University of California Press.

Smith tells in his book of the OSS backing Ho Chi Minh during World War II.

"The OSS felt an emotional rapport with Ho," Smith said. "They felt he was fighting to free his country from the Japanese and also to free it from colonialism."

"An OSS medic once saved Ho's life in the jungle and then 20 years later the CIA, which followed the OSS as America's intelligence agency, apparently saved his life again by its opposition to the assassination plot."